

CORALLINA OFFICINALIS.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Animal? crescens habitu plantæ.

Stirps fixa. Rami articulati, ramulosi.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

CORALLINA fastigiata subbipinnata vel trichotoma, articulis subturbinatis.

CORALLINA subbipinnata, articulis subturbinatis.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 1304.

CORALLINA alba officinarum.

Park. theatr. 1296.

Cum in genere Corallinarum species, ut plurimum, sint parvulæ et minutæ, hinc fit ut materia animalis, quæ in coralliis majoribus satis patet, in his nunquam adhuc pro certo explorata sit. Quod tamen hanc ob causam possit concedi quod ab analogia valde probabile fit; nec temere conjiciendum est nulla esse omnino incolentia animalia, eorum licet, ob exiguitatem pororum, qui ipsi non nisi microscopii ope cernuntur, vestigia frustra quærantur:

nec

nec de his dubitasse videtur solertissimus Linnæus, quippe qui firmiter crediderit omnem calcariam substantiam ab animalibus esse exortam. Hujus corallinæ maxima copia racemosa quasi et conglomerata crescit in rupibus sub mari immerfis, juxta littora pleraque Europæa. Colore ob plurimas causas variat, estque vel subpurpurea, vel subviridis, interdum etiam, præcipue si nimium soli exponatur, fere alba. In therapeutice magni olim erat nominis, et inesse credebatur illi vis quædam vermifugans; quam opinionem uno fere consensu denegant ridentque peritissimi omnes horum temporum medici.



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COMMON CORALLINE.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Animal? growing in the form of a plant.
Stem fixed. Branches jointed, subdivided.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

CROUDED OR CLUSTERED CORALLINE
with doubly-pinnated and sometimes trichotomous branches, and turbinated joints.

ENGLISH CORALLINE.

Ger. emac. p. 1571.

CORALLINE of the shops.

Ellis. corall: p. 48. t. 24. f. a. &c.

SEA CORALLINE.

Ray Synops. ed. 3. p. 33.

In the genus *Corallina*, most of the species of which are very small, the animal nature, so apparent in many of the larger corals, is not yet clearly ascertained. It is however from analogy to be supposed; and though the pores which a microscopical survey discovers on the surface of these productions are

are so extremely small as not to admit of a view of any animal inhabitants, yet this circumstance is not sufficient to disprove the existence of such. Linnæus appears to have been convinced of the animal nature of this genus, merely from the circumstance of its being of a calcarious substance; according to his established idea of all calcarious matter proceeding from the animal kingdom. The present species of coralline is found in great abundance on the submarine rocks about most of the European coasts; growing in clustered tufts. Its colour varies according to circumstances; being sometimes purplish; at other times greenish; and sometimes, especially where much exposed to the sun, nearly white. It once maintained a very respectable character in the materia medica, and was particularly celebrated for its anthelmintic powers; which the more illuminated cast of modern practice almost universally denies it.